

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

SP-02 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4427

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEGUCIGALPA 4329

GUATEMALA PASS TO AGATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EPAP, ETRD, HO

SUBJECT: HONDURAN REQUEST FOR INCREASED MEAT EXPORT LEVEL

REF: (A) TEGUCIGALPA 4119, (B) TEGUCIGALPA 4273

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. IN A LETTER TO CHARGE DATED SEPTEMBER 6, ECONMIN VICENTE DIAZ FOLLOWED UP REQUEST MADE IN LATE AUGUST BY MINISTRY OFFICERS MARTINEZ AND OCHOA (SEE REF A) FOR INCREASE IN HONDURAS MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM (VRP) RESTRAINT LEVEL OF UP TO 10 MILLION POUNDS.

2. LETTER MAKES FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. HONDURAS 1976 RESTRAINT LEVEL OF 35.8 MILLION POUNDS IS LIKELY TO BE FILLED BY END OCTOBER, AND THIS HAS CREATED DEEP CONCERN BECAUSE, HISTORICALLY, PERIOD OF HEAVIEST MEAT EXPORT IS OCTOBER -DECEMBER .

B. GOH PROMPT CONCURRENCE IN 1976 VRP INFLUENCED BY IMPRESSION CONVEYED BY EMBOFFS AND EMBASSY MARCH 30 LETTER THAT US MARKET
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GROWTH IN 1976 OFFERED PROSPECT OF INCREASED QUOTA.

C. PROBLEMS PRESENTED BY OVERCAPACITY IN LIVESTOCK AND BEEF PRODUCTION ARE MOST SERIOUS BECAUSE THEY ARISE AT TIME WHEN HONDURAS JUST BEGINNING TO RECOVER FROM EFFECTS OF HURRICANE FIFI AND ADVERSE IMPACT OF WORLD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS OF 1973 AND 1974.

3. LETTER CITES CONSULTATION
PROVISION OF AGREEMENT AND ASKS
USG STUDY POSSIBILITY OF INCREASE. GOH PREPARED TO SEND MISSION FOR CONSULTATIONS AT HIGHEST LEVEL. END UNCLASSIFIED.

4. COMMENT. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. WHILE THE PROBLEMS PRESENTED BY HONDURAS' LIKELY FULFILLMENT OF QUOTA DURING OCTOBER ARE SERIOUS, THEY ARE RESULT OF GOH FAILURE TO RESTRAIN TWO OF SEVEN AUTHORIZED MEAT PACKERS FROM MAKING HEAVY SHIPMENTS DURING JANUARY-AUGUST. PROBLEM WILL BEAR HEAVIEST ON THE FIVE PACKERS AND NEARBY CATTLEMEN, BUT ALL WILL BE AFFECTED UNLESS ALTERNATE

MARKETS SECURED. DIAZ' REFERENCE TO EXPECTATION (ALLEGEDLY CONVEYED BY EMBASSY) THAT US MARKET GROWTH WOULD PERMIT QUOTA INCREASE DURING 1976 MAY BE A MISINTERPRETATION OF EMBASSY'S MARCH 30 LETTER. THIS LETTER ONLY REFERS TO EXPECTATION THAT "THE STRENGTH OF THE US MARKET WILL MEAN SIGNIFICANT INCREASES IN VALUE OF 1976 EXPORTS FOR THE SUPPLIER." HE APPARENTLY TRANSLATED VALUE INTO VOLUME. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT RECENT TALKS BY AGATT, EMBOFF AND DEPTOFF PAUL TAYLOR WITH GOH ON ITS REQUEST CONSTITUTE ADEQUATE CONSULTATIONS AND THAT DIAZ LETTER AND REFERENCE TO SENDING HIGH LEVEL MISSION TO WASHINGTON WERE INTENDED FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION. EMBASSY PLANS TO PREPARE RESPONSE TO DIAZ, DRAWING ON POINTS TAYLOR AND EMBASSY MADE IN RECENT TALKS. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.
BARTCH

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